

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on April 1, 2004, has been received and its contents carefully considered.

In this Amendment, Applicant has editorially amended the specification, revised Figures 2A-2D to label these drawings as prior art, editorially amended claims 1-15, and added claims 16-20. Claims 1, 9 and 16 are the independent claims, and claims 1-20 are pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner's Action has objected to Figures 2A-2D for an informality. In response thereto, and as noted above, submitted concurrently with this Amendment are revised formal drawings, in which these Figures have been labeled as "prior art". It is requested that this objection be withdrawn.

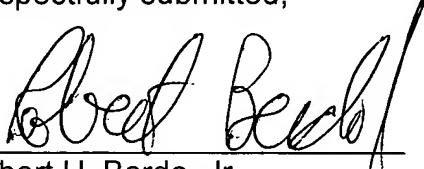
The Examiner's Action has objected to claims 1-15 for various informalities. In response thereto, the claims have been editorially amended to correct the informalities specifically noted by the Examiner's Action, and to correct other informalities noted during the review. It is submitted that the claims comply with all official provisions, and it is requested that these objections be withdrawn.

Applicant has also added a new independent claim 16 and dependent claims 17-20. Independent claim 16 includes the allowable subject matter which is recited in the other independent claims. It is submitted that claim 16, and the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinguishable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as independent claims 1 and 9. It is requested that these claims be allowed.

It is noted with great appreciation that the Examiner's Action considers claims 1-15 as being allowed. As such, since this Amendment fully responds to the Examiner's various objections, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Such action and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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